

MARRIED—In Mingo County, W. Va., Aaron Hatfield, Nephew of 'Cap' Hatfield, to Mary McCoy, Daughter of Rudolph McCoy.

A simple enough wedding notice that, but behind it and in it, as a romantic tale of love and courtship as ever penned—a tale of a mountain maid's wooing; she a McCoy, her lover one of the famous Hatfields, and the two families, for years avowed enemies, sworn to kill at sight, to hunt each other like wild animals; defying the law and the law's officers; and for forty years waging the bloodiest feud in the history of the South.

For forty years the Hatfield-McCoy vendetta has waged, and in those forty years forty coffins, marked by head stones in the neighboring graveyards, tell of forty lives snuffed out by bullet and knife. Its origin was trivial. Way back in 56 when West Virginia was a new country, many parts of it unexplored and unsettled, two razor-back hogs strayed from the farm of Anse Hatfield. Where they went was the bone of contention. Hatfield claimed that they had wandered to the premises of Rudolph McCoy and were being kept there. This McCoy denied, and the matter finally came up in the shape of a suit for the recovery in the justice court. The case was decided for Hatfield.

During the trial hot words were passed and open hostilities were narrowly averted on several occasions. The relatives and friend of the two litigants crowded the rude court room, all armed and ready to take an active part if the impending battle broke out. But it was avoided, and nothing more than threats from the leaders of the McCoy faction occurred to give alarm. Thus the feud started, and for forty years it kept the country side in a state of excitement.

The McCoy's made good their threats. One morning the body of Bill Stayton, a grand son of the plaintiff in the bog case, was found lying dead with a bullet hole in his head. Two of the numerous McCoy boys were arrested for the murder, but were acquitted at the trial. At this juncture the outbreaking of the civil war played a part. The deadly enemies now and sworn to kill members of the opposing faction at sight, they united in their country's defense, and for four years the war lasted a truce was declared.

With the surrender of the Confederate forces came the renewal of the feudal hostilities. Old 'Cap' Hatfield, the patriarch of the family, assumed the leadership. Jone Hatfield soon after abducted Rosana McCoy, and refused to right by marriage the wrong he had done her. For this he was arrested, but a daring rescue by the Hatfields prevented his trial for the charge. From this on to 1882 matters went along rather smoothly. Whenever members of the factions would meet there was sure to be an exchange of shots, but, strange to say, no one was killed outright, the two of the McCoy's died afterwards from wounds received in one of their battles.

But on election day of 1882 marked the beginning of a series of fights, each of which claimed one or more victims. A relative of both of the families was running for office, and the members of the two factions agreed to suspend their differences and work for their kinsman's election. But before the day was over Talbot McCoy and Elias Hatfield became involved in a fight. At first it was merely fistfights, McCoy threw his opponent, and was punning him severely when Deacon Ellison Hatfield and his brother appeared on the scene, and several of the McCoy gang had gathered around their representative, ready to take a hand in the fight when the time came. Talbot McCoy and the deacon advanced on each other with open knives, and when in reach the slashing began. Hatfield's knife closed on his hands, and throwing it away, he used his fists, while McCoy wielded his weapon with telling effect. The fight became general, and when it was over, though no one was killed several of the participants were carried away with injuries that afterward proved fatal. Ellison Hatfield died the following Wednesday. He had been cut twenty seven times besides being shot. Three of the McCoy's were arrested—Talbot, Randolph and Farmer.

The night of the fight the Hatfield clan gathered to gather seventy members, and, waylaying the deputy sheriff, who was taking the prisoners to the Pike county jail, captured the three McCoy's. They were taken across the river to the West Virginia side, and there held to await the outcome of Deacon Ellison's injuries. When news came of death, the imprisoned McCoy's were notified that they were to die. The following morning they were taken back to the Kentucky side and, after being bound, were forced to a kneeling position on the river's bank.

At the word of command a dozen rifle shots barked in the crisp air, and Talbot and Farmer McCoy fell over dead. The thirteen year old boy, Randolph McCoy, had been a witness to the killing, and it was decided to kill him also. One of the

party was sent back to do the work and two barrels from his shot gun riddled the boy's body.

The next move of the Hatfields was to try and kill Randolph McCoy, the head of the family. Two desperadoes of the clan waited in ambush one night near a road over which he would have travel. Fortunately the intended victim, a brother, Calvin McCoy, passed the concealed assassins before the man they had marked. In the darkness they mistook their man and fired at Calvin. He was not killed outright but was maimed for life. Soon after this a Hatfield raid was betrayed to the McCoy's, and they escaped. The wife and mother-in-law of Bill Daniels, one of the Hatfield faction, were suspected of betraying the secret. For revenge 'Cap' Hatfield and Tom Wallace went to Daniel's house one night, and, covering him with a shot gun, gave both of the women a fearful beating. The wife died from her injuries, and her mother had several rib bones broken by the force of the blows.

Jeff McCoy was the next to go. He was a brother of Daniel's wife and was looking for Tom Wallace. 'Bad Anse' Hatfield agreed to assist him in his search, but instead enticed him into an ambush, where he was killed.

In 1885 the Governor of Kentucky put a price on the head of Anse Hatfield and his brother, 'Cap,' and called upon the Governor of West Virginia for their requisition. This was at first denied, but in 1887 the officials of both States united in an effort to suppress this bloody feud. The McCoy's had suffered so much that their spirit for revenge rarely showed, but they eagerly grasped at the proposition that they join the officers in search of the Hatfield leaders. Three of gang were captured, and subsequently sent to the State prison.

The zeal of the McCoy's in joining the officers aroused the ire of their enemies, and a raid was planned for New Year's night of 1888.

Nine of the Hatfields, led by Uncle Jim Vance, attacked the house of old Randolph McCoy. Two girls were in one end of the house, and one, Allaphare McCoy opened the door when the gang demanded admission. She was immediately shot and killed by Ellison Mounts, at the command of Vance. Mrs McCoy started from the door to go to her dead daughter, when Jim gance broke two of her ribs with the butt of his gun, and stunned her with a blow from his pistol. Calvin McCoy was killed in the exchange of shots, and the old man was wounded.

Strange as it may seem, the Hatfields repudiated the killing of the McCoy girl. With their characteristic brutality toward women, it is hard to say what prompted it, but they delivered Ellison Mounts who fired the shot, into the officers' hands, and on their testimony he was convicted and hanged.

From that time the feud, while it has been kept up, has not been as exciting as in former days. Now and then a Hatfield and McCoy exchange shots, but the last man killed met his fate two years ago. The persistent pursuit of the Hatfields by the deputies drove them into the mountain fastnesses, and made the warfare before used impossible.

And now comes the reconciliation—the end of it all. Aaron Hatfield, a nephew of old 'Cap' Hatfield, met and loved pretty Mary McCoy, daughter of the head of the family, Rudolph McCoy. Primitive in their habits, these mountain lovers knew nothing of what the social world terms conventional in courtship. There was no one to say that they should do this or do that. They only knew that they loved each other, that it was the lasting, enduring love of years, and they were happy. The rugged barren hillsides were their trysting places; there they met alone, and their secret was shared with none save one. And he was the trusted friend, who saw to it that neither family knew that of what was transpiring until the time for the announcement was deemed ripe.

For there was danger should the secret be known prematurely. The fires of the feud, the smouldering, were by no means out. One day Aaron told Mary that his brother would go to see her father the following day. The lovers met at the house of the friend. All day they waited to hear what the result had been. Mary at the window saw the stalwart form of her lover's brother approach the house. 'It's all right,' he said. And then came the joyful news that the wedding would end forever the forty-year feud.—New York Journal.

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Notice to Contractors.

NOTICE is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the undersigned until 12 o'clock noon, Tuesday, January 5, 1897, for the letting to the lowest bidder of the 24 miles of the Marlins Bottom and Huttonsville Turnpike, commencing at the west end of the Greenbrier Bridge at Marlinton, and extending to the Randolph County line. Said road to be kept in order for five years, under the following specifications:

"The hill side road to be 14 feet wide except a short distance on Stony Creek Hill, which is to be 12 feet wide, with sufficient ditches on the upper side not less than 15 inches lower than center of road. In bottom, or comparatively level land said road to be twenty feet wide thrown up 18 inches higher in the center than at the outer edges, and rounded so as to carry the water to the side ditches; no timber to be used in the building of embankments; and substantial culverts to be put in at all water crossing. Road to be under the supervision of a Commissioner to be appointed by this Court; said road to be kept in a tollable condition. Road to be measured for width from inside of ditches. Foot-logs to be maintained at all creeks. The person contracting is to collect and account for all tolls paid and collected at gates, to be established on said road.

Bond with approved security in the sum of \$500 required. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

S. L. BROWN, Clerk County Court, Marlinton, W. Va.

Notice to Contractors:

NOTICE is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the undersigned, until 12 o'clock noon, Tuesday, January 5, 1897, for the letting, to the lowest bidder, the 13-miles of the Marlins Bottom and Lewisburg Turnpike, commencing at the mile post near Clarborne McCoy's residence, and extending to the county line between this county and Greenbrier county, for a period of five years, commencing on the 10th day of January, 1897.

The said Turnpike road is to be put and kept in repair according to the same specifications under which J. L. Cleek and K. O. Wade, former contractors, were awarded the contract for keeping in repair said road, and to be under the supervision of commissioners to be appointed by this Court.

Bond in the penalty of \$500 with approved security will be required. The Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

S. L. BROWN, Clerk County Court, Marlinton, W. Va.

Trustee's Notice of Sale.

Pursuant to a deed of trust made by John S. Moore and M. E. Moore, his wife, dated on the 19th day of June, 1890, and recorded in the Clerk's office of the County Court of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, in Deed Book No. 21 at page 82; to the undersigned Trustee, to secure the payment of two certain debts due Henry Barlow, one of \$462.89, with interest from October 31, 1889; and the other of \$785.51 with interest from November 15, 1889; and default having been made in the payment of said debts, and having been duly notified by the beneficiary, Henry Barlow, the undersigned Trustee will on the

29th DAY OF JANUARY, 1897.

At the front of the Court house of Pocahontas County, proceed to sell by way of public auction to the highest bidder, the land mentioned and conveyed in said deed of trust, consisting of 13 1/4 acres of land, situated near Mill Point, in said County, it being the land upon which the said John S. Moore now resides. Said land comprises a good farm with comfortable dwellings, house and other buildings, being the same land conveyed to said John S. Moore by S. H. Clark and wife by deed recorded in the County Clerk's office in Deed Book No. 17, page 191, less 3 1/2 acres conveyed to W. W. Rider, and 80 acres conveyed to E. H. Moore.

TERMS OF SALE: One third of the purchase money cash in hand; one-third with interest in one year from day of sale; and the residue thereof with interest in two years from day of sale, the purchaser executing his notes with good security, the legal title to be retained as ultimate security.

S. E. MOORE, Trustee.
Andrew Price, Attorney.
December 11, 1896.

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